

Forests Ontario celebrates National Forest Week (Sept. 24-30) with Heritage Tree designation ceremonies in Clarksburg, Ottawa and Port Hope

More than 65 Heritage Trees have been designated in communities all across Ontario. Celebrate those already recognized or check out the new Trees announced during National Forest Week!

What: Forests Ontario's Heritage Tree Program collects and shares the stories of Ontario's diverse and unique trees and brings awareness to the social, cultural, historical, and ecological value of trees. Trees are nominated for recognition based on their historical or cultural significance, and also recognized for their distinctness in size, form, age, or rarity. More about the Heritage Tree Program can be read [here](#).



National Forest Week (NFW) is a tradition dating back to 1920, originally known as Forest Fire Prevention Week. In 1967, NFW took on its current moniker and became an occasion to learn more about the values our forests support and take part in efforts to care for this vital renewable resource.

When and Where:

Monday, September 25th, 10:00 a.m. 828190 Gray Road 40, Clarksburg (near Thornbury): *70-year old Carpathian Walnut*

- Minnie Sheridan—a lively centenarian from Clarksburg—planted this impressive Walnut Tree alongside her mother, 70-years ago. It stands at 50-foot-tall and provides a hardy variety of ‘grocery store-style’ walnuts, which Minnie continues to harvest each year.

Wednesday, September 27th, 10:00 a.m. 124 Cowley Avenue, Ottawa (Visits to three additional nearby trees will follow): *Champlain Oaks*

- The [Champlain Oaks](#) are a community of healthy, pre-settlement Bur Oaks descended from the open forest of the Ottawa River shoreline. They were named after Samuel de Champlain who explored the area in the 1600s and would have seen some of the parents of these current oaks. It is very rare for urban trees of this age to be surrounded by a residential development. These trees likely survived due to a common practice of leaving clumps of trees on farmland as boundary markers and windbreaks. These oaks are prominent landmarks in the community and are defining features that connect the neighbourhood.

Thursday, September 28th, 12:15 p.m. King's Field Park, 20 Victoria Street South, Port Hope: *Mighty Oaks at King's Field Park*

This magnificent pair of ancient white oak trees stood on the Lake Ontario shoreline before the first European settlers arrived in 1793 to establish Port Hope. It is thought this sandy oak savanna site was used by Iroquoian peoples for hunting and gathering grounds when they used the trail (now Lakeshore Road) to harvest salmon and sturgeon from the Ganaraska River. Photos of these trees grace the cover of Port Hope's *Municipal Forest Master Plan* and all *Trees of Distinction* promotional materials.

In celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial, Forests Ontario and the TD Bank Group invite Ontarians to help us collect and tell the stories of 150 heritage trees across the province. We encourage Ontarians to continue to share their heritage tree stories with us; Forests Ontario will accept nominations *until December 31, 2017*.

To see a *full map of Heritage trees* across Ontario go to <https://www.forestsontario.ca/community/in-the-spotlight/heritage-trees/>.

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About Forests Ontario

Forests Ontario is the voice for our forests. Working to promote a future of healthy forests sustaining healthy people, Forests Ontario is committed to the re-greening of Ontario through tree planting efforts on rural lands and in urban areas, as well as the renewal and stewardship of Ontario's forests through restoration, education and awareness. Visit www.forestsontario.ca or follow [@Forests_Ontario](https://twitter.com/Forests_Ontario).

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